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SIXPENCE

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, in his speech at the opening of the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow, took occasion to dwell on the courageous spirit of enterprise which was responsible for this ambitious undertaking. He saw in it, he said, "the symbol of the vitality and initiative upon which the continued prosperity of Scotland must rest." This is the fourth Exhibition that Glasgow has held in the last fifty years and there is every reason for anticipating that it will more than rival its predecessors in the success that has attended every Exhibition which Glasgow has promoted. The whole of the Empire has zealously co-operated with Scotland in producing an impressive display of resources and products and nothing has been left undone that could possibly attract the visitor to this little township in Bellahouston Park, with its hundred palaces and pavilions, its lakes and fountains and—one should not forget—its wealth of service to the Inner Man.

MR. HORE-BELISHA'S reforming zeal at the War Office has already done much to galvanise the voluntary system of Army service from an almost moribund state into new and promising life. The improvement of living conditions in the way of better food, better accommodation, extra privileges and higher rates of pay and allowances has added enormously to the attractions of military service, and the scheme for long-term engagements just announced is yet another important measure well calculated to increase the popularity of an Army career. No longer is the Army in danger of becoming the resort solely of the otherwise unemployable and destitute. There are signs that it has begun successfully to compete with civil employment, some of its latest recruits having come from well-paid jobs in the world of industry. And even now, perhaps, Mr. Hore-Belisha has not exhausted all the possibilities of springing fresh reform surprises upon the public and the Army. Maybe he has picked up an idea or two from his interview with the Duce.

WAS IT CRICKET for the Worcestershire captain, after winning the toss, to put the Australians in to bat on a plum wicket? Perhaps it was only a friendly gesture and not, as some have suggested, merely the result of an otherwise laudable desire to swell the gate receipts. But it was an unfortunate decision for Worcestershire because the county team unquestionably got the worst not only of the wicket, but of the weather. Doubtless they would have been soundly beaten anyway, but they might easily have made a better fight if their captain had not helped to increase the odds against them by not taking advantage of the Fortune that favoured him in the tossing of the coin. For the rest, the match showed us what we must expect from Bradman if our bowlers cannot

discover some means of deceiving his eagle eye for the ball. The other feature was what one sporting writer calls the extraordinary "flux of no-balls hurled down by McCormick." However, there is no reason to suppose that this particular bowler will be equally generous to his opponents in the future. It was merely a case, one imagines, of adjusting his run-up to English conditions in a match where a few additions to the county score did not very much matter. The Australians have played themselves into form, and now no one can have any doubts as to the formidable strength of their side.

AT THE SAVOY HOTEL on Tuesday a most enjoyable luncheon was held to celebrate the inauguration of a new "Year Book" which the Encyclopædia Britannica is issuing in order to keep its subscribers abreast of the times. Lord Robert Cecil spoke of the great advantages to be gained by people who possess the Encyclopædia, in fact he went so far as to say that a public school and university education might almost be dispensed with if the E.B. was in the home library. In his amusing speech he sketched the early history of this great work, how it began with three volumes and was restricted entirely to science, and how in 1788, Mr. Smelly, the editor, was so disgusted at the proposed addition of two volumes of history and biography that he resigned. Lord Cecil was followed by Sir William Bragg and the Very Reverend Dr. W. Inge who spoke of the fine work done by contributors to the E.B., for whose specialised knowledge all should be grateful.

THE PROBLEM OF GAMBLING remains with us perennially. It will disappear when human nature has returned so closely to the mentality of the cabbage that war will be impossible and nobody will take any pleasure in getting something for nothing or a great deal for very little. No moral question can arise if the gambler risks no more than he can reasonably afford and, if he does, his extravagance is a sin against the Eleventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not spend thy Capital," which valid in Victorian times has been shattered by the War and the Income Tax. Football pools are so attractive to those who understand them—and it appears they are comprehensible to millions—that an enormous amount of money is being diverted into new channels. Their promoters may claim that they are doing a public service because they are preventing the millions from which they draw a handsome dividend from departing to those more or less enlightened countries which do not suffer from hysteria at the idea that the gambling instinct should be harnessed to the service of the country. At present the profits of the pool promoters amount to several millions a year. There is no reason

why the State should not run their business for them and absorb those profits, for it is very difficult to find any place for them in the category of those who have deserved well from their country.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE to open a paper last week without coming upon views and comments on the Royal Academy controversy about the non-acceptance of Mr. Wyndham Lewis's portrait of T. S. Eliot and the resulting resignation of Mr. Augustus John. It is a pity when new blood is so urgently needed that a picture in no way offensive should be rejected. If it had ended there, no great harm would have been done, but the loss of Mr. John is a serious matter. The portrait in question is clever though unpleasing in treatment, and after a survey of the pictures that have been hung there appears to be little reason for its rejection.

This year's show is less dull than usual; there are more landscapes and subject pictures and fewer portraits. Algernon Newton again paints fine country houses with success, and this year, as an innovation, he has substituted three tiny nudes for the expected mansion, with startling effect. Russell Flint's picture of a Spanish disaster is bold and colourful, but he has entirely failed to produce the atmosphere of horror, brutality and fear that the subject demands.

There are, as was to be expected, many Coronation pictures, the best being that of the Abbey Service by Frank Salisbury, whose study of the Archbishop of Canterbury is a fine piece of work, and the whole scene is well planned and skilfully painted. Mr. Cundall's studies of crowds are amazing, "Derby Day" being perhaps the most successful. James Bateman shows a delightful painting of a cattle market, Delissa Joseph has a very clever picture of the backs and roofs of London houses, and Nevinson's "River winding out to sea" and Dame Laura Knight's "The Thames" are vivid and strong in composition and treatment. Edward Halliday has a pleasant picture of undergraduates of Worcester College, Oxford, with the shadow of the Dean on the grass. Evidently his shadow has no fears for anyone, as the picture is full of life and gaiety. Jan Gordon has an amusing picture in the tempera room and Margaret Theyre shows a pleasing study of Snowdon.

Of the many portraits, the most striking is undoubtedly that of Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins by Meredith Frampton. It is painted with the most meticulous care in every detail and with remarkable technique. It may be argued that the tones are too cold and that it lacks life, but one look at the deep thought in the face immediately dispels this idea and balances the mechanical effect of the test tubes and rubber appliances. Instantly, as if by magic, the expression in the eyes makes the picture alive and the apparatus vital and necessary. Of the other portraits, R. G. Eves shows several fine studies, as does Sir John Lavery. G. L. Brockhurst has six pictures painted in his unmistakable style, and Hugh Riviere, whose work it is good to see again on these walls, shows a very fine portrait of his son.

In the sculpture room Alan Durst's red marble

horse is quite lovely, and A. J. Marshall breaks new ground by carving a prancing horse in wood—a fine achievement, full of strength and beauty.

The big figures for the Norwich City offices by Mr. Hardiman should look well in their proper setting. At Burlington House it is difficult to get a fair idea owing to their size.

"**A**S HUSBANDS GO," at the Garrick Theatre, is a farce by Sydney Blow and Gordon Whitehead. The first act is amusing, but after that the play tails off into a mere rag. The audience, however, were weak with laughter from start to finish, and if to be amused at nothing in particular is success, then this play has a long run ahead of it. Hugh Wakefield and Jeanne de Casalis in the main parts were delightful.

"**B**ANANA RIDGE," at the Strand Theatre, by Ben Travers, is another farce, and is very, very funny. The first act is so good and the laughter so prolonged that at times the actors have nice long rests between their remarks. Robertson Hare and Alfred Drayton are as amusing as ever, and that is enough to ensure a full house for weeks to come.

IN A LECTURE GIVEN by Lord Horder on Obscurantism at the Conway Hall last week he described himself as a "pragmatic humanist." In his comprehensive survey, Lord Horder showed in what various ways men use words to confuse rather than clarify thought. He held up to gentle ridicule the slogans and euphemisms with which men deceive themselves in matters artistic, religious, political and, of course, medical. Lord Horder has little patience with extremists and less regard for catch phrases.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL was present at a concert given by the British Women's Symphony Orchestra at Queen's Hall last week. The programme included works by Heinrich Hofman, a composer who should be heard more often than he is. The strings, while lacking something in tone, are well drilled by Mr. Boyd Neel, and were heard to best advantage in Dvorák's Symphonic Variations.

THAT MR. LUBITSCH has lost little, or nothing, of his old touch is apparent from his latest picture, *Bluebeard's Eighth Wife*, which is at the Plaza. Except for the last ten minutes, this film is very wittily directed, and the director's grip on the various amusing situations surely maintained. Mr. Lubitsch, too, is fortunate in his cast which, headed by Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert, play with the airy insouciance this kind of picture demands. Claudette Colbert, a penniless shoot of the old French aristocracy, falls in love with Gary Cooper, an American millionaire, and everything appears to be plain sailing until she discovers on her wedding day that he has already had seven wives. To teach him a lesson she marries him, and her curriculum is very entertaining until she drives him into a mental home. During the last ten minutes the shafts are directed at the unfortunate inmates, and constitute a breach of good taste.

Leading Articles

HITLER MEETS THE DUCE

IF at the beginning of last century Europe had been faced with two dictators instead of one Napoleon Bonaparte, it is likely that this country would have taken heart of grace and felt less despondent about its bounden duty of maintaining the variety of Europe. Two leaders of the kidney of Napoleon were bound eventually to be at one another's throats and in the order of things their death struggle would simplify the task of those who stood on the side of liberty. It is one of the consolations of our time that Field-Marshal Göring with his remarkable gift of prophecy talked about "the two greatest men of the century" who are meeting in Rome, when he wished his Führer godspeed, and the solution of our present problems depends more than a little on the necessary antagonism between their hopes and ambitions. In any case it is all for the good that the Latin Mediterranean Power which is despised and rejected by the Nordic Gospel should impress upon the younger and more barbarous civilisation its strength and imagination. There is nothing particularly extravagant in the expenditure of some £4,000,000 in lire on Herr Hitler's reception. The money remains where it is spent and pageants are good for everyone. The Italian people are likely to gain far more delight from the pomp and splendour which only offends against good taste by a worship of the "colossal" that may be purely complimentary to Herr Hitler than by wasting a similar sum on the silly films which canalise so much of our money out of the land of its origin.

It must be as depressing to the totalitarian to observe the vast and complicated efforts required to shield a Leader against possible assassination as it is to the revolutionary to admit that in these days they are quite unnecessary. In this country we dislike any measures which might suggest that our rulers could be in danger from anything more serious than a lunatic who would be just as liable to slaughter a humble citizen. It is rather sad that anyone who can count on the support of one hundred per cent. of the people minus an infinitesimal fraction, thanks to plebiscites that no hereditary sovereign dare face, should be involved in such elaborate police precautions both at home and abroad. One regrets the despotic ruler who sat under a tree in the open and gave judgment to his people.

However, if Italy has not borrowed too much from Germany, Herr Hitler's visit should count

among those glorious spectacles which give beauty and meaning to the drab life of the average modern man quite apart from any political considerations. No city but Rome could welcome a friendly potentate with such a wealth of Imperial associations as Herr Hitler will survey on his journey from the station to the Quirinal. The Colosseum, the Forum and the Palatine ablaze with light provide such a Triumphal Way as no other city in the world can boast. No doubt the German Leader and his suite will suitably express their admiration for the military and naval exercises planned to impress them, but such exhibitions could *mutatis mutandis* be reproduced in their country, while many centuries must pass and many Leaders come and go, before that country, Nordic as it is, can boast a tittle of the glories of the Roman Empire.

It seems that to attribute any political significance to the Pope's absence from the Vatican at the moment of Herr Hitler's visit would be an inexcusable error. His Holiness, one learns from the *Osservatore Romano*, "has not gone to Castel Gandolfo for any reasons of petty diplomacy, but simply because the air there is good for him, while that of Rome is not." Yet it might be legitimate to suggest that the Holy Father would have braved spring in the Vatican for a few days longer, if he believed that objects of a diplomacy which could not be described as "petty" would be served by postponing his journey to his summer palace, which so many of his predecessors as prisoners in the Vatican were unable to make. The successor of the Roman Emperors will doubtless be content to know that he has avoided certain errors committed by the Emperor across the Brenner. No Roman could be blind to the Papal Power nor could he coquette with anachronisms of Pagan revival which Julian the Apostate would have regarded as clotted nonsense.

Signor Mussolini when it comes to talking business will find himself in a position of singular authority, as he is well aware. He has in his pocket the agreement with this country and consultations are in progress for a similar understanding with France. When Providence ordained that Herr Hitler should absorb Austria in Germany, it ordained also that a violent and possibly disruptive shock should be given to the Rome-Berlin axis. That wise man, the Duce, after thinking it over, announced *urbi et orbi* that he was simply delighted to see the Germans on the Brenner and Hitler replied that it was perfectly splendid of him. Those who are wise accept the inevitable and pretend to like it until the day when they can change it, for the inevitable is not necessarily the immutable. The embraces and compliments of the Field of the Cloth of Gold are indicated and indeed desirable between Göring's "two greatest men of the century." Each might devise for the other a special order of such distinction as no ruler of men in any century has ever worn. Hostility between Germany and Italy would serve no policy. Geographical considerations force on Italy the same attitude as that which our own country prefers. As the *Manchester*

Guardian puts it, "Italy has once again achieved her favourite position of balancing between two groups, committed to neither yet courted by both." That is the policy of splendid isolation which we have only abandoned, because through our own blunders one power threatened to assume a predominance which would wreck European equilibrium.

TERRIER MAN

YOU may see old Tom Taylor at every meet of hounds throughout the season. Your eye will, of course, first be taken by the hounds and the huntsman and his whips, who sit blood-hunters in all the glory of scarlet and white. But, when you have looked your fill upon these most important things, you may perhaps notice a little man who stands to one side and holds two rough-haired terriers on a lead. He is dressed in a hunting-cap and a stained old scarlet coat which is much too big for him and his legs are protected by rough, brown breeches and gaiters. You will also notice that all the members of the hunt have a cheery word for him, for they all know that, humble though his station is, there is no greater sportsman in all the countryside than the old terrier-man.

When hounds move off, Tom takes a line of his own, for he knows the country like the palm of his hand and can foretell with remarkable accuracy which way a fox is likely to run. Sometimes, but very seldom, will he accept a ride in a car; generally he prefers to slope off across country with that slouching stride which covers the ground at such an astonishing speed and which looks so absolutely effortless. The amazing thing about him is that, no matter how far hounds have run and no matter how unusual a line they have taken, old Tom always manages to keep in touch with them. If their fox goes to ground and the terriers are wanted the huntsman has scarcely blown the call when Tom appears, seemingly out of the blue, and his gallant little dogs go to their appointed work.

Many people have tried to buy a terrier from him, but he will never sell. He never has more than three or four at a time, and for years he has had his own strain, of which he is very jealous. Little corksers they are, too. Short-legged, long-bodied and hard as nails, they know their job and love it. Once down an earth, they do not leave their fox until he bolts or Tom digs down to them. It also says a lot for their intelligence that they are very seldom injured. And, poor and rough though Tom is, there are no better fed or more well-cared for little animals in the country.

Tom's wages are only some thirty shillings a week, and for this he runs with the terriers, does most of the earth-stopping and fills in any spare

time by repairing hedges and gates. His is a hard life, out in all weathers and at all hours, yet I have never heard him grumble. He is that very rare being, a completely happy man. He is a born naturalist and this life of his enables him to observe the ways of the birds and beasts. His knowledge of nature is amazing and all of it has been gained by observation and experience. Incidentally, he is also a born poacher, but nobody holds this against him.

He lives, quite alone save for his terriers, in a queer little tumble-down cottage about five miles from the kennels. His garden is neat and tidy and, in the season, gay with flowers. Inside, the house is dark and uncomfortable, but as clean as a new pin. The deal table is scrubbed almost white and one could eat a meal off the stone floor. The walls are decorated with the brushes and masks of foxes, and it is in this room that I have sat for many hours and listened to the old man telling of strange happenings in the hunt and of the queer ways of the beasts of the countryside. I can see him now as he sat there, pipe between his lips, his eyes sparkling as he told of some great hunt of many years ago. He is a strange mixture. Although his life is dedicated to the destruction of foxes, he has a horror of what is known as vulpicide. There is a certain farmer to whom Tom will never speak because he once shot a fox. It is true that it happened over thirty years ago, but Tom has not yet forgotten.

Strange though it may seem, he is essentially a humane man. I remember once, after a long run, our fox went to ground in a deep earth where the Master decided to leave him. Hounds went home, but Tom did not. Single-handed, in pouring rain, he dug that fox out and let it go. It took him four hours, he was soaked to the skin and he had a ten-mile walk home after it. All he said was, "Ef I 'adent digged 'en out 'a would 'a died in thur. 'A wor zo stiff 'a couldent 'a come out on 'a's own." Just a little incident—and yet.

I remember, too, that after a day's hunting I had to go out in the evening. My road took me by way of the kennels. It was after seven o'clock when I started and the rain was coming down in sheets. Five miles from the kennels my headlights picked out a forlorn little figure in a scarlet coat trudging bravely along through the blinding rain. Tucked under his coat were the terriers and on the end of a bit of rope was a hound. I stopped, and at first he refused to get in as he would make the car too wet. I asked him why he was so late, and he told me that he had found the hound straying after the pack had gone home. "Moight 'a got runned awer," he said, "so I jest puts rope round 'er's neck an' takes 'er back." The kennels were miles out of his way and he had had a long day, but quite cheerfully and uncomplainingly he was taking that lost hound home.

There are many like him, and when you have enjoyed a good day's sport with hounds do not think only of the huntsman and whips. Think also of that very humble sportsman, the terrier man.

DAN RUSSELL.

The Inner Man

MORE STAR CHAMBER DINNERS

IN our issue of March 26, we published a first instalment of the accounts submitted for the dinners served to the Lords of the Star Chamber at the Sovereign's expense. Drawn from the contemporary MSS. covering the period from the reign of Henry VIII to that of Charles I, this first-hand evidence of the way our forefathers ate and the cost of their food is of interest to all concerned with the Art of Good Living. A second instalment appears to-day, dealing with the year 1519.

10. Wednesday, the 27th day of October.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d. Item a ling 14d. A cod 20d. 3 jowls salmon 18d. Lampreys for stew 8d. Lampreys to roast 12d. 2 roasting eels 20d. 6 plaice 20d. 18 whitings 8d. Fresh herring 7d. 4 breams 2s. 8d. 2 pikes 6s. Quinces 12d. Flour 12d. Butter 16d. 2 couples soles 16d. Herbs for the chambers 8d. Herbs and roots 4d. 3 haddock 18d. Crude 12d. Spices 6d. Salt and sauce 12d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Washing of napery 12d. Rushes 17d. 39s. 8½d.

11. Thursday, the 28th day of October.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d. Item a sirloin of beef 18d. Pottage flesh 4d. A neck mutton 4d. 2 loins mutton 12d. 4 capons 8s. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 12 chickens 18d. 6 conies 18d. 4 partridges 2s. 8d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 18 snipes 3s. 3 doz. larks 18d. A pheasant 16d. 6 woodcocks 2s. 8 marrowbones 16d. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Crude (flour) 8d. Spices 5s. Boathire 13d. Apples and pears 16d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. 45s. 9½d. Sum £4 13s. 11½d.

12. Friday, the 29th day of October.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 7d. . . . 4s. 1d. Item a ling 13d. A fresh cod 20d. 3 jowls salmon 18d. Lampreys for stew 6d. 6 plaice 2s. 2 couples soles 16d. 14 whitings 8d. Fresh herring 6d. 2 Pikes 6s. 4d. A fresh salmon and a chine 8s. 4 haddock 2s. Lampreys to roast 12d. 2 roasting eels 2s. Flounders 8d. Quinces 12d. Apples warden 12d. Oysters 4d. Spices 5s. Boathire 13d. Herbs 4d. Butter 12d. Flour 10d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Rushes 12d. 43s. 9½d.

Vessel Item paid for a garnesche of pewter vessel weighing 80 lbs. for every pound 5d. 33s. 4d. Tolles 24s. 4½d. Item paid for 65 quarters tolles every quarter 4½d. 34s. 4½d. Wine Item paid for an hogshead of claret wine 26s. 8d. Item to the porters for carriage of the same wine to Westminster and for laying of it in the cellar 20d. Faggots. Item paid for 400 faggots for every 100 2s. 10d. 11s. 4d. Sum £7 5s. 3d.

13. Wednesday, the 3rd day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. 3s. 6d. Item a sirloin of beef 18d. Pottage flesh 4d. A neck mutton 4d. 2 loins mutton 14d. 8 marrowbones 17d. A loin veal 8d. A goose 8d. A bustard 4s. 4 capons 8s. 6 conies 18d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 6 —— 15d. Four Woodcocks 16d. 4 partridges 2s. 12 snipe 2s. Three doz. larks 18d. Quinces 12d. Spices 6s. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Crude 6d. Herbs 6d. Apples 12d. Boathire 13d. Trenchers 1½d. each. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Total 45s. 2½d.

14. Friday, the 5th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d. Item a ling 14d. A cod 2s. Lampreys for stew 8d. Lampreys to bloat 12d. Lampreys to roast 12d. 2 roasting eels 2s. 2 pikes 6s. 4d. Flounders 16d. 15 whitings 8d. A haddock 6d. Herring 6d. 3 jowls salmon 18d. 2 couples soles 12d. Quinces 12d. Spices 5s. Salt and sauce 10d. Boathire 13d. Butter 12d. Apples warden 12d. Herts 3d. Rushes 12d. Half a salmon 5s. and the chine 2½d. Cups 5d. Trenchers 1½d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. 40s. 5½d. Sum £4 13s. 5d.

15. Saturday, the 6th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 8d. . . . 4s. 2d. Item a ling 14d. A fresh cod 22d. 16 whitings 8d. Half a fresh salmon and the chine 6s. Lampreys for stew 10d. Lampreys to roast 20d. 2 eels 2s. 2 pikes 6s. 6d. Half a turbot 3s. 2 breams 16d. 2 gurnards 2s. Quinces 8d. Crude 8d. Warden 4d. Spices 5s. Baking herring 6d. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Apples 6d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Washing 12d. Boathire 13d. 41s. 8½d.

16. Monday, the 8th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 8d. . . . 4s. 2d. Item a sirloin of beef 16d. A neck mutton 4d. 8 marrowbones 16d. Pottage flesh 4d. 2 loins mutton 13d. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 4 capons 8s. 1 quail 4d. 6 conies 18d. 5 partridges 2s. 6d. 3 woodcocks 12d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 6 snipes 12d. 3 doz larks 18d. A loin veal 7d. Spices 5s. Cream 6d. A doz eggs 8d. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Boathire 13d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Herbs for the Chambers 6d. Herbs for the kitchen 4d. Rushes 12d. 41s. 7½d. Sum £4 11s. 3d.

17. Tuesday, the 9th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 7d. . . . 4s. 1d. Item a sirloin of beef 14d. Pottage flesh 4d. A neck mutton 3d. A breast veal 7d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A pestell pork 6d. 2 loins mutton 12d. A swan 5s. 2 heron-sewes 4s. A pheasant 20d. 4 partridges 2s. 4d. 3 cocks 12d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 12 snipes 20d. A goose 8d. 4 capons 7s. 6d. 5 conies 15d. Butter 10d. Spices 4s. 6d. Salt and Sauce 8d. Boathire 13d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. 42s. 4½d.

18. Wednesday, the 10th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 6d. . . . 4s. Item a sirloin of beef 18d. Pottage flesh 3d. A neck mutton 4d. A loin veal 7d. 6 marrowbones 12d. A leg veal 6d. 2 loins mutton 12d. A crane 4s. A goose 8d. 4 partridges 2s. 4 woodcocks 16d. 12 plovers 2s. 6d. 12 snipes 22d. 6 conies 18d. 4 capons 8s. 3 doz larks 18d. Quinces 8d. Spices 4s. 6d. Flour 8d. Butter 12d. Salt and sauce 8d. Eggs 8½d. Apples 16d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Boathire 13d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Herbs 3d. Rushes 8d. 42s. 11d. Sum £4 13s. 4½d.

19. Friday, the 12th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 6d. . . . 4s. Item a ling 14d. A fresh cod 2s. Baconherring 6d. Lampreys 2s. 2 roasting eels 2s. 2 pikes 6s. 2 couples soles 16d. 3 breams 2s. 4d. 3 gurnards 5s. Half a salmon 6s. 4d. A turbot 6s. Quinces 8d. Butter 12d. Flour 8d. Spices 5s. Apples and pears 12d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Apples and pears 12d. Wardens 4d. Boathire 13d. Washing 12d. Flour 8d. Herbs for the kitchen and chamber 8d. 48s. 1½d.

20. Saturday, the 13th day of November.

Item for bread 18d. Item Ale 2s. Beer 9d. . . . 4s. 3d. Item a ling 14d. A fresh cod 20d. Fresh herring 8d. Lampreys 20d. 2 roasting eels 2s. 2 pikes 6s. 8d. 14 whitings 10d. A turbot 6s. A fresh salmon 6s. 2 gurnards 3s. 4d. Quinces 8d. Spices 5s. Butter 12d. Trenchers 1½d. Cups 5d. Cook's wages 2s. 4d. Apples and pears 12d. Wardens 4d. Boathire 13d. Washing 12d. Flour 8d. Herbs for the kitchen and chamber 8d. 44s. 3½d. Sum 100s. 8d.

Books of The Day

A POWER BEHIND THE THRONE

IN contributing a brief introductory note to the third volume of extracts from his father's papers, the present Lord Esher finds occasion also for an apt quotation from Lord Beaconsfield ("Journals and letters of Reginald, Viscount Esher," edited by Oliver Viscount Esher, volume III, Nicholson & Watson, illustrated, 25s.):—

The most powerful men are not public men. The public man is responsible, and a responsible man is a slave. It is private life that governs the world.

The first Lord Esher had abilities and gifts of mind and character that ensured pre-eminence in public life. But, after serving his political apprenticeship at Westminster and in Whitehall, he declined to deviate from the career which he had marked out for himself and for which he was eminently fitted—that of the modern Stockmar, the power behind the Throne, the confidential "go-between" of the Sovereign and his Ministers. As these memoirs abundantly prove, no man could have served better the State and the Throne than this extremely shrewd, loyal and patriotic Nestor behind the scenes. With his selfless devotion to his Royal Master, his thorough and sympathetic understanding of politicians' difficulties and his clear appreciation of the constitutional issues involved in the crises affecting Throne and State, he was exceedingly well equipped for the rôle of adviser, negotiator and intermediary in the years of storm and stress covered by this third volume of extracts from his papers (1910 to 1915). The Liberals' quarrel with the House of Lords and the revolt of Ulster raised the gravest issues upon which the Keeper of the King's Archives was freely consulted by his Sovereign—"so honest, conscientious, high-minded and anxious to do his duty"—and was able to give sound and carefully reasoned advice. And when the war came and the Government were dissatisfied with Sir John French's handling of the British operations, it fell to Lord Esher's lot to go to France on the Government's behalf and diplomatically to convey to "the little Field-Marshal" Mr. Asquith's opinion that the time had come for him to send in his resignation. How he performed this highly unpleasant and delicate task may be judged from extracts from his journal and letters:—

Crossed to France, and went straight up to G.H.Q. The Field-Marshal had been inspecting troops all day, and arrived late at G.H.Q. Directly he came in I told him exactly what had occurred in the simplest language. It is on an occasion like this that his perfect simplicity of character is so attractive and moving.

The little Field-Marshal was touched by your (Mr. Asquith's) expression to me of your liking for him personally. He cares more for personal affection than for public appreciation. This is a quality that being easily divined by soldiers endears him to them.

I am deeply grieved for my poor little friend. To leave so great a task unaccomplished, so great a trust unfulfilled, is a tragic end to a fine soldier's career. . . . I feel rather depressed to-night, and am writing this at the little Field-Marshal's table. He has gone to bed. The room is full of maps—all the traces of a

life that so far as this sphere is concerned is practically at an end.

Just as Lord Esher had long foreseen that the Great War was bound to come, so, too, when it came he was not among those who were deluded into thinking that it would soon be ended. Germany, he foresaw, would prolong the struggle till she had "exhausted every possible supply of men and material." By 1915 he was lamenting: "No initiative, no *feu sacré* about us. So far we have not produced a man." For Kitchener he had the warmest admiration; the vision of his "massive, inarticulate, *emotionné*" figure, he writes, "haunts me."

The man is a noble creature. . . . It is amazing to me that his colleagues fail to see his bigness, and misconstrue the forceful instinct of the travelled soldier, experienced in men and lands, human passions, and volcanic forces. I am convinced that not one of the men who meet him in the supposed intimacy of Cabinet discussion understand him better than they would understand an Arab sheik or a Hebrew prophet. And Lord K. has about him the attributes of both. It is not unnatural that he should be pathetically obscure to men, even the ablest, whose horizon is bounded by Oxford-street and Westminster. It is not their misconception that wounds him, but their unconcealed dislike. He said again: "Asquith is my only friend in the Cabinet."

For the future historian, Lord Esher's papers will be an invaluable mine of information on the personalities and events with which they deal. He will not fail to be struck with the sincerity of this personal chronicle and with the wisdom that informs all Lord Esher's comments and reflections on men and affairs. The fourth and concluding volume of the "Journals and Letters" is expected to be published shortly and will be eagerly awaited.

A REVEALING VALEDICTORY

It is not easy to classify Mr. Henry Williamson's latest book, "Good-bye West Country" (Putnam, illustrated, 10s. 6d.); it is so many things at once: a valedictory to Devon, as the title suggests, a Nature Book in which there are many delightful passages about salmon and other fish, deer, stoats, otters, peregrines and bird life generally, a disquisition on literary composition combined with a glowing tribute to the unrecognised genius of Victor Yeates, author of "Winged Victory," a salute to Hitlerite Germany with comparisons between the Führer and T. E. Lawrence, a series of revealing idiosyncrasies of mood, temperament and opinion that go towards filling in unconsciously a clearly-defined self-portrait, and finally a piquantly lively scrap-book of newspaper cuttings, broadcast talks, correspondents' criticisms and "fan-mail." It is all set out in diary form and covers the period of Mr. Williamson's last year in Devon before he migrated to a farm in Norfolk.

Despite its scrappiness of form and because of the extraordinary variety of the topics on which Mr. Williamson so unaffectedly and pleasantly discourses and because, too, of the frankness with which he depicts the disappointments, the petty irritations and trials and satisfactions of the author's life, "Good-bye West Country" is a book that, once dipped into, must be read to a finish. The sincerity of it, the loyalty to friends

and the keen observation and love of Nature that it evinces, the quiet sense of humour that is capable of acknowledging the justice of criticism that shows the author up, for example, as a "scientific cheap jack," and the charm and grace of style in which this and all Mr. Williamson's books are written, ensure the reader's fascinated interest from the first page to the concluding words of valediction :

Good-bye West Country! Now that I have to go—I have to go—it is as though a tree were being uprooted. Now dare I tell you why I have to go? It is because I saw, with dismay, that I was becoming unfair to you . . . that I was even beginning to hate you, in my need for rest, for change, for another mode of life. Working in the open-air, all day with the body in harmony with the brain, ploughing, harrowing, drilling and (I hope) reaping . . . It's been a great life, twenty-three years down here, 1914-1937 . . . Many memories, thoughts, hopes—all in ancient sunlight—I am leaving them, saying good-bye, I cannot help but say good-bye, for they are the Past, and life for me, an artist, is always the Past.

There is sadness in farewells, and Mr. Williamson needs must feel the wrench of parting from the Devon which has been his home for over twenty years. Yet there is promise ahead, for

Wallace Anderson (Editor of the *Estate Magazine*) says I'll succeed as farmer; and, incidentally, write a successful book about my efforts. He used to farm and I've got some useful ideas from him.

So one may hope that "the ploughing, harrowing and drilling" on this Norfolk farm will result in rich harvests both of agricultural produce and of Williamson books. If we are to hear no more of Salars and Tarkas, it is something to be able to console ourselves with the thought that now at least there is a chance of agriculture finding an inspired champion to plead its cause and sing its praises to a hitherto somewhat indifferent nation.

THE LATE LILIAN BAYLIS

The late Lilian Baylis, violinist and music-teacher till she blossomed into the presiding genius of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, was a truly remarkable woman. No one but she could have enlisted such an array of talent in the service of her two theatres, could have kept her companies happy and contented and enthusiastic on the most meagre of salaries, managed to extract funds from one quarter or another when financial crises threatened and, without the aids of ordinary publicity, secured such widespread support from the theatre-going public. Her courage and forceful personality conquered all difficulties, and if she knew how to get the best out of those who worked for her, she also knew how to win their affection and admiration. Dame Sybil Thorndike and her brother, Mr. Russell Thorndike, who joined the Old Vic company in the early days of Lilian Baylis's rule, afford eloquent proof of this in their separate tributes to Lilian Baylis's memory ("Lilian Baylis," Chapman & Hall, with frontispiece portrait, 5s.). Their book helps to make us understand the devotion to herself that Lilian Baylis inspired in all who came to know her intimately. It is, too, the kind of tribute that its subject would have appreciated : an affectionate remembrance of all the traits in her character, her impatience and impulsiveness as well as her kindly thoughtfulness for her helpers, her little weaknesses as well as her finer qualities. The two tributes merge charmingly into one another to give us a

living, breathing portrait. Both writers have many amusing anecdotes to tell. One by Dame Sybil, concerning an air raid, illustrates how little Lilian Baylis cared if the Heavens fell once the Vic's curtain was "up." Mr. Russell Thorndike, among other things, dwells on her faith in prayer and her rather droll methods at times of extorting divine assistance.

SUICIDE THROUGH THE AGES

Suicide is not exactly an appealing topic, but it has a centuries old, world-wide history that Mr. Henry Romilly Fedden succeeds in showing is worthy of receiving attention. He does not offer to moralise on the subject, though he does quote some who have done this. Nor is he concerned with the medical aspect of the matter. The main purpose of his "Suicide" (Peter Davies, illustrated, 12s. 6d.) is to note the changes that have taken place down the centuries in the attitudes towards self-slaughter of the Law, Church, Literature and the people as a whole. In these changes primitive and philosophic conceptions have both exerted their influence. He treats of both in a comprehensive survey from ancient times to the present day. Broadly he distinguishes two kinds of suicide : one that is part of tribal custom, such as suttee and certain forms of the Japanese hara-kiri ; the other, the personal suicide, which, in essence, is a revolt against the tribe. The latter is abhorrent to primitive man, because the blood shed is family blood and the spite shown in shedding it also suggests the probability of a malignant ghost. Hence such precautions as the cutting off the hands of suicides and the putting of stakes through their hearts. Mr. Fedden concludes with the comforting thought that suicide will tend to become less common "now that the individual has survived the shock of finding himself alone." It is a curious reason, but one may hope that he is right.

THE NONESUCH WALT WHITMAN

Walt Whitman was a poetic pioneer and as such inevitably threw a challenge to tradition that could not fail to be hotly answered. Yet there was a strength and energy and freshness about his verse that could not be denied and that were bound in the long run to establish his claims as a poet of genuine genius. True, his work was very unequal ; in much that he wrote the vein of pure gold ran exceedingly thin. But at his best he had the true poetic fire and inspiration. And as proof of this there is the fact that over forty years after his death his "Leaves of Grass" poems are still being widely and enthusiastically read in this country no less than in the United States. Part of his present-day popularity is no doubt due, as the foremost authority on him, Professor Emory Holloway, points out in his preface to the new Nonesuch Edition ("Walt Whitman: Complete Poetry, selected Prose and Letters," 12s. 6d.), to the particular significance attached to his work :

There are readers who . . . approach him as a spokesman of democracy, a reformatory force, if not as a systematic thinker. Still others discover in him, in an age of increasing regimentation, a refreshing example of sublime self-reliance, a symbol of human brotherhood, a religious mystic without cant. There

is likewise a growing tendency to view him as the personification of a *Zeitgeist*, a composite photograph of nineteenth century America.

"I am large : I contain multitudes," was Walt Whitman's own comment on himself, and it is on the fact that "he was as many-sided as was the American life he sought to present" that Mr. Holloway rightly bases the need and the value of the Nonesuch "compendious edition." By its means one is able to trace the development of the poet, prophet and man through the years of his life. Professor Holloway has done the job of editing exceedingly well. "A growing autobiography" was Walt Whitman's own ideal of setting forth his work and this ideal Professor Holloway has scrupulously kept in view. By putting dates at the end of the poems in "Leaves of Grass" he has enabled the reader to see at a glance when each piece was composed or first printed and when it was incorporated in that work. The 392 pages of Prose selections are given in chronological order except where they are autobiographical when the order is according to the date of the events described. The 188 letters are chosen from every period of Whitman's life, many inaccuracies that have crept into those previously published being corrected from the originals. Professor Holloway has also added a very useful Biographical Chronology and many pages of explanatory notes.

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MACMILLAN

"African Mirage," by Mr. Hoynigen-Huene (12s. 6d.) will, in respect of its illustrations, bear comparison with the very best of this firm's publications. Mr. Hoynigen-Huene undertook his African journey primarily as an artist-photographer and the "spoils" he has brought back with him from the "shots" of his camera make a truly impressive array. There are several illustrations of animals, but Africa to Mr. Hoynigen-Huene was mainly of interest as a country of splendid human types. He found beauty there in the human form and he has reproduced it by the aid of his camera for the edification of the outer world and to point a moral. What his purpose has been may be gathered from what he tells us in the following passage :—

I have purposely omitted all sordidness of realism in my photographs and have concentrated on the plastic and heroic side of an Africa which is slowly disappearing with the ever-increasing supply of European and Japanese manufactured goods. Some day, when the entire Black Continent is clothed and reduced to comparative banality, these documents may prove of interest, revealing a naturalness of form and movement never found in a world of organised artificiality.

Mr. Hoynigen-Huene's journey started in Egypt and ended in Algiers. He went to the Sudan and then on to Kenya. Turning west to Stanleyville, he proceeded via Lake Tchad, Kano, Zinder and the Sahara to the Mediterranean. In his concise narrative he records his impressions of the people and sights he has seen.

"TRAVEL IN EUROPE"

The Midland Bank has just brought out a new edition of its popular booklet entitled "Travel in Europe." The work has been entirely revised to date and contains information additional to that given in earlier editions. In other ways, too, the value of the booklet has been enhanced. Its twenty pages, printed in a convenient form for the pocket, are full of essential particulars which make it one of the most useful guides to existing exchange and currency conditions in the European countries most frequented by British travellers. Copies may be obtained without charge on personal or written application to the Head Office, Poultry, London, E.C.2, or any branch of the Midland Bank or of its affiliated banks—the Belfast Banking Company, The Clydesdale Bank and the North of Scotland Bank.

NEW NOVELS

Regency Brighton knew an eccentric buck—called "the Green Man" because of his liking for green clothes, green powdered hair, green food and, in fact, everything green. Miss Clemence Dane has resurrected him and his Regency Brighton environment for our benefit in her own delightfully brilliant fashion ("The Moon is Feminine," Heinemann). Since he is an eccentric there must be more than a mere touch of fantasy about his story and Miss Dane has taken good care to supply it. We find him rescuing an Earl's daughter from a storm, telling her of his ancestors who came from St. Martin's Land "a green country, where they lived in a green twilight" and "had a greenish tint to their skins," and then

rescuing a seal on the Brighton beach which he believes to belong to a youth from St. Martin's Land. The story resolves itself into a struggle for the soul and life of the hero between the lady and the mystical youth, with disastrous consequences for the lady. Miss Dane will certainly puzzle many of her readers as to the precise meaning of her tale just as she will charm them all with her descriptive powers and the magic of her prose.

With light and delicate touch and a humour that flashes like summer lightning, Miss Stella Gibbons sets out her story of sentimentalities and emotions ("Nightingale Wood," Longmans, 8s. 6d.) for our joyous entertainment. Her cast consists of a household, in which the father has a mean eye for economies and the mother is all for the respectabilities and in which there are two daughters in their thirties, one athletically and doggy minded, the other in love with the low-born chauffeur. Then there are the beautiful widowed daughter-in-law who has cast her affections on a handsome and wealthy Greek God, the chauffeur's amorous mother, and a weird, rude old man of the woods. It is a lengthy book, but one could not wish it to be a page shorter.

Mr. Alfred Tressider Sheppard has written a very fine historical romance round the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century period of Anglo-French rivalry and the struggle for freedom by Flanders against Philip the Fair. It is called "The Matins of Bruges" (Thornton Butterworth) and opens with the destruction of the old town of Winchelsea in 1287, a time of storm and stress that is very vividly depicted for the reader. It is here that the hero, an English lad, and the heroine, a girl from Bruges, meet and fall in love with one another and it is here, too, that the hero's father is murdered by a treacherous French pirate. The girl has to return to Bruges and the poverty to which the hero and his mother are reduced make it impossible for the lovers to marry. The girl's stepmother eventually marries her off to a Frenchman. The hero meanwhile has killed his father's murderer and had other exciting adventures. He is in Bruges at the time of the Matins and here again Mr. Sheppard paints us a lively and colourful picture of the fighting. Nor does he omit to give his readers the pleasing ending to his tale that they will desire.

Mrs. Kathleen Norris knows what her own large public wants and her fount of inspiration never shows any signs of going dry. "The Sea-Gull" (John Murray) has for its heroine a girl who discovers she has no right to the Spanish hacienda she has loved as her home. She has no knowledge, too, as to who her parents were or are. She sets out to make her way in the world and to solve the mystery of her birth. Things go hardly with her at first, but all comes right in the end. The solution of the "mystery" may possibly suggest itself to the reader before he has got very far with the tale, but he will nonetheless read on since Mrs. Norris has by this time interested him in her characters and the complications in which she involves them.

"Disorderly Caravan," by Josephine Kamm (Harrap), is an entertaining romance of a cruise to the Isles of Greece. There is nothing very

"disorderly" about the romance apart from the fact that the lady is a married woman. But it is a lively tale in which the author displays a delightfully satirical humour in depicting the characters of some of her tourists.

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

The Hogarth Press will shortly publish a new book by Mrs. Virginia Woolf entitled "Three Guineas." In this book Mrs. Woolf develops certain trains of thought that were indicated in "The Years."

Dr. J. Wesley's "England: Before and After Wesley" will be coming from Hodder & Stoughton on May 16.

In the near future Longmans will be issuing "The Economic Development of Modern Egypt," by A. E. Crouchley.

Methuen will be bringing out an English edition of "Everybody's Paris," by John Brangwyn, on May 19. The American edition of this book was awarded a 25,000 franc prize for "the best book on France published since 1925 outside the country."

A CORRECTION

In our review of Mr. R. A. Lloyd's book, "A Trooper in the 'Tins,'" it was incorrectly stated that "he had qualified for a commission in the Machine Gun Corps, but this was refused him, in accordance with the custom of his regiment." We understand that the facts are that Mr. Lloyd had applied several times for a commission in the Artillery, but as he was a "Regular," this was refused him in accordance with the custom of his regiment.

A new murder book by **WARNER ALLEN**

Times Literary Supplement: "The name of the author will at once tell the reader what to expect—in short, a book full of wit, rich in incidents and ingenious in design.

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"DEATH FUNGUS"

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Round the Empire

CANADA'S PORTS

DESPITE the fact that the amount of wheat passing through Canada's harbours, both inwards and outwards, was lower than in 1936, Canadian ports experienced a busy and profitable year during 1937 according to the annual report of the National Harbours Board. An increase of £91,400 over 1936 and of £308,000, or 63 per cent., over 1935 was recorded in net operating income. In view of the reduced traffic in wheat, these increases indicate the tremendous strides that have been made in recent years in Canada's foreign trade, particularly in exports of mineral products and timber and in the importation of manufactured goods from the United Kingdom.

Increased revenues and substantially reduced expenses as well as a planned programme of expansion have featured the operations of the past two years during which the harbours have been under the jurisdiction of the National Harbours Board. The harbours covered in this report are Halifax, Saint John, Chicoutimi, Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal on the Atlantic seaboard and Vancouver on the Pacific coast. The port of Churchill, on the Hudson Bay, is included under the administration of the Board. Water-borne cargo tonnage landed from and loaded to vessels in harbours under the jurisdiction of the Board was 32,195,291 tons in 1937 as compared with 30,824,784 tons in 1936, an increase of 1,370,507 tons or approximately 4 per cent. The number of arrivals and departures of vessels at the harbours listed was 80,278 in 1937 as compared with 73,094 in 1936.

A HOLIDAY IN THE BACKWOODS

A group of public schoolboys are availing themselves of an opportunity of spending a fortnight in Canada this summer, camping with young Canadians in the backwoods of the Dominion learning the arts of campcraft, fishing and woodcraft lore. After a week or so of this open-air life, in the course of which they will visit little-known places of scenic beauty, they will make trips to the larger of the Canadian cities and return home via New York on the *Queen Mary*. The boys, who will be travelling under the auspices of the School Empire Tours Committee, are coming from Eton, Harrow, Cheltenham, Eastbourne, Shrewsbury and Rugby.

THEIR LAST ROUND-UP

In the summer of 1929 the Canadian Government charged a Laplander named Andrew Bahr, with the responsibility of shepherding some 3,400 reindeer from Alaska to the Mackenzie River delta to augment food supplies there. After a hazardous journey lasting some five years—one of the most romantic treks of its kind in history—he duly accomplished his mission. Since then the Department of Mines and Resources has had an official stationed in the vicinity to keep an eye on the herds. The latest report indicates that the animals

are thriving exceedingly. What was called the average dressed weight of the animals has increased from 150 lbs. per deer to 165 lbs. in 1937.

The reindeer have adapted themselves to the climatic and local conditions, and with a gradual replacement year by year of old animals by young stock born in the district, the herd is becoming securely attached to the Canadian range. At the last round-up the animals had developed to a well-balanced herd of more than 4,000.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Scientific research is a matter to which Canada has devoted a great deal of attention, and yearly the National Research Council awards scholarships to graduates from the Dominion Universities to continue their studies. Forty-nine scholarships have just been awarded for the coming year, the graduates coming from fourteen Canadian Universities. The awards will enable them to pursue post-graduate work on many lines of research in various centres, the amounts of the individual grants having, in some cases, been slightly increased for those who have to travel more than three hundred miles to reach the centres where they have been accepted under the scholarship plan. Four special scholarships will be tenable in Ottawa, two of them valued at £200 each and two at £150. For work elsewhere the scholarships range downwards from £150. Twenty-eight of the awards are to be used in financing chemical research including fourteen in physical chemistry, six in cellulose research, four in organic chemistry, two in general chemistry, one in inorganic chemistry, and one on a "practical chemical problem." Twelve of the candidates will work in the field of physics, the other topics covered including botany, entomology and mathematics.

THE USES OF NICKEL

With Canada supplying 86.5 per cent. of the world's consumption of nickel, it is interesting to note that practically 90 per cent. of this metal is to-day used for commercial purposes and only 10 per cent. can be traced to the use, in one form or another, in armaments. The general manager of the Canadian company controlling the production of nickel in the Dominion stated, in his presidential address recently, that approximately £3,750,000 had been expended in the past twenty years in research, development and publicity to create peace-time uses of nickel. "Whereas prior to and during the Great War the greatest part of the world's nickel production was used in armament," he said, "to-day the converse was true and all but a small part of the world's nickel is absorbed by industry for a multitude of peace-time uses."

Nickel is of minor importance in warfare as contrasted with steel, copper, zinc and lead, he observed. Not only does but a small fraction of nickel go into war materials, but the percentage that does go into armaments represents a negligible percentage of the total of all metals used for such purposes. "For example, no nickel whatever is used in rifle or machine gun barrels or in bayonet steel. Nickel in bullet jackets has been

replaced largely by "gilding metal," a less expensive alloy containing no nickel whatsoever. Nickel is used in large gun forgings, trucks, aeroplanes and in armour for battleships. The alloy steels used for the purposes enumerated contain only from 1 per cent. to 5 per cent. of nickel and the amount of nickel so used is less than 10 per cent. of the world output. Thus nickel is not essentially a war metal, nor is it essential to war, whether gauged by the percentage of nickel which goes into armament or whether gauged by the percentage of armament metal which is represented by nickel. "Nickel is sold in bulk to steel makers and alloy manufacturers throughout the world, who, in turn, sell their nickel-bearing products to numerous fabricators for final distribution to numerous users. Thus the nickel used in armament exclusively cannot be segregated successfully."

SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

In their joint manifesto to the South African electorate on the eve of the South African elections General Hertzog and Smuts, on behalf of the United Party, declared:—

"The United Party and the Government which it brought into office has stood the test in that they were instrumental in giving the country five years of political peace and co-operation and of unprecedented economic recovery. We are, therefore, justified in asking the electorate for the continuance of their trust in us. Although much was achieved in the past in the upbuilding of South Africa, our work is not yet complete, and difficult tasks ahead call for continuance of confidence and unity. The Peace that was made at Coalition and in Fusion was a real and lasting peace, and there must be no going back to the division and bitterness of the past. There must be no turning back, but a steady advance towards national unity. The coming elections must result in a decisive victory for a true and sane South Africanism. We want a victory that will make this country safe for us and our children against the disintegrating forces of mere party divisions and racial strife. For the first time in the history of South Africa there is a big United Party whose cardinal policy it is to further national unity among our people, to maintain the existing friendship with our fellow members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and to safeguard South Africa's position of security and prosperity in an unsettled world. Let the great mass of South Africans rally to that Party and give it a strong mandate for the next five years. SOUTH AFRICA FIRST!"

SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S BUSY YEAR

Trading records were broken in Southern Rhodesia last year. The value of the Colony's imports was £8,569,000 which is 22 per cent. higher than 1936, and constitutes a record in the history of the colony, says the Statistical Bulletin. The expansion in the export trade is no less striking, the value in 1937, £11,979,000, showing an increase of 18 per cent. over the previous year. Higher prices for unmanufactured tobacco resulted in an increase in value of exports of this commodity from £652,000 in 1936 to £934,000 last year, while

favourable prices for a record maize crop raised the value from £313,000 to £506,000 and fresh and chilled meat increased from £158,000 in 1936 to £226,000. The value of mineral and metal output for the Colony in 1937 was £7,483,000 nearly £350,000 more than the previous year.

AN INCOME TAX UTOPIA

Certain income tax payers in Southern Rhodesia, where already married men with less than £800 a year pay nothing at all, are to receive yet further concessions. In his recent Budget speech the Minister of Finance, Mr. J. H. Smit, announced that the maximum rate imposed on gold mines would be reduced by sixpence, thus bringing the figure to 3s. 9d. in the £ in the case of the large producers, and that an increased exemption from the payment of mining royalties will be granted the small mines. As a feature of mining in Southern Rhodesia is the number of small independently owned properties these concessions mean a great deal to the industry upon which the remarkable prosperity of the Colony so largely depends. The Government own the mining royalties.

EXCELLENT TOBACCO CROP

Although it is too soon to give exact figures of the present Southern Rhodesia tobacco crop it is estimated that 22½ million lbs. will be placed on the auction floors, as compared with 20 millions last year. Marketing conditions are excellent and there are prospects of new markets for Rhodesian Turkish leaf. The quota which manufacturers in the Union of South Africa are allowed to buy from Southern Rhodesia this year has been fixed by the Union Government at two million lbs. of Virginian "flue-cured" at a minimum of 14 pence a pound.

WHITE MAN MUST REMAIN

"The European in this country can be likened to an island of white in a sea of black, with the artisan and the tradesman forming the shores and the professional classes the highlands in the centre. Is the native to be allowed to erode away the shores and gradually attack the highlands?" This question was asked recently by the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia (Mr. C. M. Huggins) when laying the foundation stone of the David Livingstone Memorial Mission school at Ntabasinduna. (The "Hill of the Headman.") "To permit this would mean that the leaven of civilisation would be removed from the country and the black man would inevitably revert back to barbarism worse than before," he went on. "I say this because the ancient controls and inhibitions of tribal custom and superstition on which Bantu society rested are going, or have gone, never to return." "Rightly or wrongly," continued the Prime Minister, "the white man is in Africa, and now, if only for the sake of the black man, he must remain there."

In reminding his hearers, many of whom were missionaries, that efforts to civilise the African native must be persistent but unhurried, Mr. Huggins quoted Livingstone's dictum: "The Israelitish slaves brought out of Egypt by Moses

were not converted and elevated in one generation, though under the direct teaching of God himself."

TIME AND HOT AIR

Until recently the "Clerk of the House" in the Southern Rhodesian Parliament, at Salisbury, turned a large hour glass, which ran for 40 minutes, directly a member rose to address Mr. Speaker and set it on the Table where the orator could see it, or a smaller glass, whose sands ran out in 15 minutes, when the House was in Committee.

At the opening of the present session, members found that these hour glasses had been replaced by three coloured electric lights. Green appears when the member begins to pour forth, amber warns him that he has only another five minutes and red tells him to sit down and shut up. The Colony has another time-saver. In a suburb of Salisbury there is a little church to which, each Sunday morning, with great regularity, there comes a man and his yellow Alsatian dog. The man goes inside to worship and the dog lies outside to wait. If, however, the sermon lasts longer than the 20 minutes the dog considers proper, he puts his head inside the church door and looks inquiringly up the aisle towards the preacher. It is said that this dog is a great favourite with the lay members of the congregation.

PLOUGHING GOLD

While ploughing on his farm near the township of Fort Victoria, in Southern Rhodesia, Mr. W. H. Hewlett turned up a piece of "float" or isolated auriferous rock which, on being crushed and washed, gave a good panning of gold.

Thereupon, Mr. Hewlett and his father, started digging round the spot where the float was found and located the parent reef, which they have called "Coronation Claims." Last month, with a little two-stamp mill, they crushed 108 tons of reef and recovered £4,500 worth of gold. Now they are obtaining larger machinery, having refused an offer of £75,000 for the mine. The Coronation Claims are an item which the ghosts of ancient dwellers in the neighbouring Zimbabwe ruins must be kicking themselves for having missed.

AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND TRADE AGREEMENT

The Commonwealth Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) announced that as the result of the recent negotiations, the 1933 trade agreement between Australia and New Zealand will be continued, but with certain adjustments, chiefly affecting the duties imposed by New Zealand on certain lines of Australian manufactured goods. The potato and citrus questions, the subject of much past controversy, had been amicably settled, Mr. Lyons said.

In regard to potatoes, New Zealand withdraws her request for the relaxation in the conditions of import into Australia. In regard to oranges,

subject to the satisfactory marketing of fruit grown locally and in the Cook Islands, no restrictions will be placed on the quantities of oranges imported from Australia, and other sources of supply, as long as the buying and incidental costs are recoverable by ordinary market procedure. Given reasonable prices this should mean an extension of the market. Protective measures, however, will be taken against citrus from fly-infested areas. As Australian producers demanded and are given protection against plant pests and diseases, the similar protection could not be denied New Zealand producers.

Restrictive measures will be continued for the present by New Zealand in regard to other Australian fruit and vegetables which are competitive, but the position is to be reviewed, when it is expected that there will be some degree of relaxation. While the bulk of Australia's export trade in manufactured goods will be unaffected, New Zealand has imposed higher duties where necessary to protect local industries. In the majority of cases where the duties have been increased, Australia's competitive position relative to other supplying countries except Great Britain is preserved. The existing agreement with Great Britain requires New Zealand to maintain, in this connection, the position of a domestic competitor. Whereas Australia formerly enjoyed a favourable position relative to other Dominions, all are now on a level in all but a small field. In 1937 Australia exported goods to New Zealand to the value of just under £7,000,000, imported £1,800,000, and thus had a favourable balance of over £5,000,000. As Britain absorbs 80 per cent. of New Zealand's exports, the New Zealand policy is to avoid any development prejudicial to the maintenance of New Zealand industries and the United Kingdom market. The new arrangements of duties will affect some lines of Australian exports to New Zealand, but not those in the iron and steel group, for the reason that Australia is still able to supply at a much cheaper rate than Britain.

ABORIGINAL POLICE

The proposal to form a police force from the aborigines to control the semi-civilised natives of such outposts as Darwin is, says a writer in the *Sydney Bulletin*, an excellent one. In the long ago Queensland had such a force, apart from the black-trackers attached to the mounted white police. The officers were whites, many of whom achieved some distinction in later years as members of the magistracy and officers of the regular police force. "As late as the early 'eighties patrols of this black force were in evidence in the far west of Queensland. But they are best remembered for their work among the wild tribes of North Queensland. The suggested force for Darwin—it might be extended to other far-northern centres as efficiency was worked up—would be raised to do ordinary police duties among the natives. It is scarcely necessary to refer to the Armed Native Constabulary of Papua as an example of what can be done by patience and training with what sometimes appears hopeless

material. The Armed Native Constabulary is a military force rather than a civil one. Papua also possesses the village constable, who may be regarded as the civil native constable *in excelsis*. These men, dealing only with native affairs, are the backbone of the native administration. It is true that the Papuan is a stationary agriculturist, and the Australian a hunting nomad. But, with some knowledge of both, I am convinced that, given time and patience, the aboriginal constabulary could be wrought into a force which would help to solve many of what the southern Australian dismisses as aboriginal problems. This is especially true of the native with white blood in his veins. Many of these would afford ideal material from which to mould a caste of non-commissioned and even junior commissioned officers in a force which might in days to come garrison small outlying posts throughout the Northern Territory, as did negro regiments in the days of the Indian wars in the U.S.A."

AN EXTENSIVE SURVEY

According to the *Australasian* an extensive programme has been planned for the North Australia survey this year. The work will comprise aerial photography, geological investigations, and geophysical surveys. The areas to be photographed are:—Some 1,500 miles of territory in Western Australia, Koolan Island, and Cockatoo Island; a strip in the Northern Territory along the Queensland border, and part of Arnhem Land; and a strip in Queensland in the Woologorang-Lawn Hills, Somerset, and Upper Palmer River areas. The field of geological work will be:—Western Australia: The Ashburton-Gascoyne district between Carnarvon and Onslow; the Pilbara district, the principal mining areas which are within 100 to 200 miles of Port Hedland; and the Kimberleys. Northern Territory: Granites-Tanami district and the Pine Creek district. Queensland: Cloncurry, Croydon, and Herberton (including the Hodgkinson area), and the Woologorang, Somerset, and Upper Palmer River areas.

After further discussion with technical representatives of the different territories, geophysical work will be carried out at Maranoa Reef and Norseman, in Western Australia; Tennant Creek and Mount Todd, in the Northern Territory; and the Batavia goldfield, Herberton deep lead and tin lodes, Watsonville tinfield, Miclere goldfield, and Blair Athol, in Queensland.

AIR DEVELOPMENTS

Following the announcement by Imperial Airways that Vancouver, British Columbia, will become the northern terminus of the proposed service between England, Canada and the Antipodes, plans have been prepared to permit Vancouver's seaplane harbour to accommodate the largest flying boats and aeroplanes. The alacrity with which Canada has undertaken this development is typical of the energy which she always throws into the expansion of her internal air lines

—an energy which has enabled her to claim the proud position of the leading nation of the world in the matter of air transport of freight. The harbour is to be dredged and the erection of suitable hangars for the flying boats will cost something like £200,000, this being borne by the Canadian Government and Imperial Airways. A further considerable sum is necessary to complete the land run-ways and to improve the night lighting system for the land machines. When the necessary work has been completed, Vancouver will become one of the key ports of the British Air Routes circling the world, and will be counted among the leading airports of the world. The port will be known, in air parlance, as "Sea Island Airport." So far, 233 acres of the area available for the land operations have been utilised. There will be runways 200 ft. wide and 4,000 ft. long.

Referred to, appropriately, as "The Aerial Gateway to the North Atlantic," the commercial air station which the Government of Eire is establishing on the Shannon is—according to the latest reports—to be pushed forward rapidly to completion. To be known as the "Shannon Air-Port," this aerial harbour is to provide all the most modern facilities for handling big land-plane airliners as well as ocean-going flying-boats. A specially designed pontoon dock will enable passengers to walk ashore from Atlantic flying-boats and enter an aerodrome hotel which will provide every modern comfort for those making use of it. The air-port is also to have the latest equipment in wireless and meteorology, while there will be a powerful light-beacon which will be visible from a distance of 50 miles.

Tests are being made at Southampton with a new way of embarking and disembarking passengers and mails on the Empire flying-boats. Aircraft now dock at a pontoon alongside berth 10 at the new dock. This pontoon is connected with the quayside by a gangway, so that passengers can walk from flying-boat to shore. Hitherto, they have embarked in motor-launches at berth 9, and have been taken across to the flying-boats at Hythe.

By the summer time-tables of Railway Air Services, which come into operation on May 23rd, it will be possible to fly from London to Glasgow in the morning, spend several hours there, and return again to London that same night. Inland summer schedules will render possible a rapid journey to the Shetlands by a combination of rail and air. Travelling from London by night train to Glasgow, passengers will be able to catch an early morning aeroplane from Glasgow which will get them up to the Shetlands by mid-day.

The Government of Southern Rhodesia is going to establish an itinerant flying school. The idea is to bring flying within the reach of as many as possible in the districts outside the larger towns where there is not a sufficient number of flying enthusiasts to warrant the expense of flying clubs, planes, permanent instructors and ground engineers. All the balance of Sir Abe Bailey's gift for the development of aviation is to be set aside for this purpose.

Your Investments

SECURITIES, POLITICS, AND U.S.A.

AS drastic a Budget as any pessimist could have awaited proved to be rather less than a nine days' wonder, and markets quickly returned to normal, i.e., the undertone remained fairly cheerful, but once again a wary eye was cast upon the European situation and upon the continued depression in U.S.A. Of the two factors, the American would appear to be the more important from the investment standpoint. Were conditions in the States at all reasonable the politicians might well turn to Europe with an idea of making international understanding pay commercially. Many, including the writer, have always held the view that a restoration of international trade is the only means of effectively restoring international peace. Goodwill is more likely if lucrative, unpleasantly cynical though this statement of fact may seem.

A NEW FACTOR

Australia's latest move is a new factor in Britain's industrial outlook. The Commonwealth is borrowing £7,000,000 in London, of which £2,000,000 is to be spent in the United Kingdom on Defence requirements, the remainder being for redemption of Treasury Bills in London. The issue in 3½ per cent. form at 99, dated 1952-56, is rather cheaper than the 3½ per cent. Loan floated last autumn at 97, for the redemption yield on the new stock is £3 16s. 6d. per cent., a good return for a Trustee issue giving a full 3½ per cent. "flat." If the Dominions are to finance additional defence expenditure to be made in this country, then Britain is broadening her basis of credit expansion. But for the miserable U.S. consumption outlook, commodities would probably respond sharply.

GOLD AN EXCEPTION

In considering the future of commodities gold must be made the exception to a somewhat "bearish" outlook. Quite obviously the authorities both in this country and America are at the moment determined to keep the price of gold stable. It is just possible that America might be forced by depression and political obstinacy into another attempt to cure her ills by monetary manipulation. This would have to take the form of cheapening currency against gold. To make gold cheaper would be merely to invite a deeper depression. Gold, then, seems destined to hold its price at least and, as it is the one commodity in which a struggling world retains confidence, gold-mining shares do not look by any means overvalued as an investment medium. West Springs, though yielding under 5 per cent. on last year's 25 per cent. dividend, are likely to see higher prices than the present 52s. 6d. owing to the promising development position. Randfontein have been a weak market of late, the ore reserve having caused disappointment. At 35s. the £1 shares look worth attention again for recovery.

West Africans are having quite a good run at the moment, and of these Bibiani at 24s. 3d. and Marlu at 16s. look as promising as any.

BEER AND BREWERIES

One thing which emerges from the Chancellor's Budget statement is the attraction which attaches to Brewery and tobacco shares. The former have been mentioned in these columns at considerably lower prices than those now ruling as constituting good sound industrial investments. Now there seems no reason why it should not be a case of full steam ahead until the approach of the next Budget at any rate. The Chancellor expects the brewers to provide him with more revenue this year, although there is no increase in tax on beer. The reason, of course, is the greater spread of purchasing power among the beer-drinking classes. There seems no reason why current dividend rates on brewery shares should not be maintained or even moderately increased this year. For capital appreciation, the shares of Matthew Brown, Blackburn brewers, at 28s. look most attractive. On last year's 7½ per cent. dividend the yield is over 6 per cent., and an increased interim of 3½ per cent. against 2½ per cent. has been paid. If the hoped-for 10 per cent. materialises this year, these shares are worth 35s. Another reasonably low-priced share is that of Charles Hammerton & Co. of South London, makers of the well-known "oatmeal stout." Only recently introduced to the Stock Exchange, the shares of this old-established firm give 5½ per cent. to the buyer at 22s. 6d., the dividend just paid being 12 per cent. for the year.

BRITISH MATCH CORPORATION

One of the steadiest of British industrials is British Match Corporation, which owns the ordinary capital of Bryant & May and the entire capital of J. John Masters. Final dividend of 5 per cent. now announced makes 7¾ per cent. for the third successive year, and the directors' policy of steadily eliminating the originally substantial goodwill item is increasing the strength of the balance-sheet year by year, and also paving the way for some increase in the distribution. The dividend announcement had no effect on the shares which, priced at 36s. 3d., yield a steady 4½ per cent.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE

Once again the results of the North British & Mercantile Insurance make a fine showing, despite the difficulties which attend the investment of funds with safety at a reasonable interest rate. The dividend of 6s. 3d. per share, or 25 per cent. on the fully-paid and 100 per cent. on the partly-paid shares, is covered with a margin of £228,000, and the yield of £2 17s. per cent. on the shares is a reflection of the market's high opinion of the capital position. New life business was for a net amount assured of £5,619,779. Income on life and annuity funds totalled £1,400,668, against £1,387,949. Fire underwriting profit was £356,938 against £369,286, and £1,000,000 is transferred to the fire account additional reserve. Net interest income was only about £10,000 down at £534,404, and £2,279,295 is carried forward against £2,825,686. The assets are again fully represented by market values.

Letters to the Editor

TAXATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT

Sir,—The additional tax on hydro-carbon oils announced in the Budget speech deserves something more than mere passing attention. That this new imposition on the road transport industry will meet with wide opposition goes without saying. The amount of the tax may be comparatively small, but it comes on top of a series of duties of the same nature levied during the last ten years. These duties are now at a level which is wholly exceptional for a commodity which enters indirectly or directly into the cost of living of every family in the land. From the point of view of the road transport industry, heavy as the burden is and severe as is the handicap which it places upon one particular form of transport, the thing which is most objectionable is the spirit of discrimination which is once again shown when dealing with rival methods of transport. This is the third or fourth time that taxation has been imposed upon this industry, and when announcing these decisions the Chancellors of the Exchequer have made it clear that there has been behind the actual tax a deliberate intention to handicap one industry.

Mr. Winston Churchill in 1928, when imposing the 4d. tax upon petrol, the present Prime Minister when imposing the heavy-oil tax at a more recent date, and now Sir John Simon in his reiterated assertion that the heavy-oil tax was only to be on those oils used for road transport have all expressed this attitude of their various Governments. This is brought out even more strongly when one reads the language with which the new taxation in the present Budget was announced. "These are burdens," said the Chancellor in effect, "to meet needs that concern every person in the country, and it is only right that everybody should in some proportion bear a share of that burden, so the individual is taxed in three ways, his income, his food, and his movement." In the case of income and food there is no differentiation at all, save that between the richer and poorer income tax payer. In the case of movement those who use and those who provide one form of transport are singled out for taxation while others go free.

The public has been slow to realise the abuse of the power of Parliament, which in the last decade has been employed to strangle by legislation and

by taxation one industry. Nor, I think, has it been generally realised that the power of taxation reposing in the House of Commons has been subjected to one set of interests as opposed to those who seem to be rival interests. The harm that is done to our national industry, to the freedom of movement of the people, and to the transport system which in the event of war would be that on which the country would have to rely, by the very heavy taxation of road transport is enormous. In another way national ideals have been sacrificed by the use of the Parliamentary machine to discriminate as between one set of citizens and another.

H. E. CRAWFORD.

Bush House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2.

GERMANS AND SPAIN

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. V. R. H. Austen deserves every commendation for his disinterested anxiety for British interests in Spain, and, as one who has lived so many years in that country, I think I am able to assure him that neither Germany nor any other country can obtain lasting domination in it.

The Spaniards are a proud, brave people, passionately addicted to personal, collective, and national freedom, as the Peninsular and other wars in that country have shown. They also showed that it does not follow that because one nation assists another in a war that it therefore intends or desires to dominate that country. Spain—on both sides—is grateful for foreign help; but neither side will abide foreign domination.

Fortunately it is very far from "known" that Germany has "possession" of the frontier, army training, aerodromes, etc., or that she controls the national resources which are very efficiently controlled from Burgos. Like the equally erroneous statement that Germany has the Basque ports in her hands, these charges are made with no evidence to support them that would pass muster in a court of law. The Nationalists deny them. We can believe whom we like. But I am bound in fairness to say that during my eight months in Franco's Spain I saw not the faintest evidence to bear out Mr. Austen's fears. Germans there certainly were, and Italians, but not in supreme positions.

It is most regrettable that we have no military or naval attachés with the contending armies. As it is, other countries are in a far better position than we are to derive benefit from the lessons of this lamentable war.

ERNEST C. YALDWYN.

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